

**REMARKS**

The present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/885,096, which is abandoned without prejudice without payment of the issue fee or publication fee.

In the present application claims 1-23 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 24-27 have been added corresponding to the allowed claims of the parent application.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirou SAWA

By Warren Cheek, Jr.  
Warren M. Cheek, Jr.  
Registration No. 33,367  
Attorney for Applicant

WMC/dlk  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
July 23, 2003